

# Utah State Hospital Newsletter

Issue 32

Winter 2009



## 2008 Employee Opinion Survey

Each year employees have the opportunity to give feedback regarding certain aspects of their employment ranging from overall satisfaction, training, communication, supervision, etc. We want to thank everyone for taking the time to complete the survey. It came at a time when many other surveys were distributed. This takes time from your work but is very valuable in helping us make improvements at the hospital.

The results of the survey were very positive, much like the results we saw in 2007. 87 percent of employees report that they are satisfied with their employment at the hospital and only 3 percent were very dissatisfied. We saw an increase from 76 percent in 2007 that felt supervisors are concerned about the employee's well-being and safety to 81 percent in 2008. A majority of employees feel safe at work (86 percent), similar to the 2007 results. 88 percent of employees feel they receive the necessary training at work. 81 percent feel we accomplish our mission at the hospital.

80 percent feel their supervisor helps them to do a better job and the same percent feel valued and supported by their supervisor. 83 percent feel that their co-workers are committed to doing quality work and almost 90 percent feel that their co-workers cooperate with one another to complete assignments. 90 percent of employees believe that hope is an essential key for the patient's success in treatment and 82 percent feel that we empower patients to make their own decisions and give choices in treatment. 87 percent of employees would recommend USH to someone for treatment and feel proud of the work we do. The DTS department also asked us to piggyback questions for their agency onto our survey. 93 percent of employees feel they receive prompt and courteous services from DTS.

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## A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

*This past Christmas season on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Volunteer Department teamed up with the Recreational Therapy Department to establish what will hopefully become a new tradition at the hospital. It was a Christmas Wagon/Hayride on campus. Two horse drawn wagons and one tractor trailer with hay to sit on was utilized to take patients around the grounds to view Christmas scenes and lights constructed and put up by each unit. Some of the scenes included ceramic figures made in the ceramics shop, animated figures of Santa and reindeer, air inflated characters, hand painted scenes of Charlie Brown's Christmas, and animal Christmas Carolers. The final scene included live people singing Christmas Carols around a fire, making and handing out s'mores to riders in the wagons.*

*While waiting for the wagons, groups were entertained by a Christmas movie playing in the gym along with donuts and hot chocolate to enjoy. The horses and wagons were generously donated by community volunteers. It was a great activity leading into the Christmas season.*

*It is anticipated this event will be an annual occurrence and become bigger and better with each passing year!*



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On the flip side, only 40 percent of employees feel their salaries are competitive with the market. Less than 60 percent feel the V.I.P. program is a good way to recognize employees for their work. Seventy-six percent feel that supervisors follow up with them if they experience a traumatic event at work.

As we continue to strive harder to meet the needs of our employees and continue the tradition of the Utah State Hospital being a terrific place to work, we recognize that there are areas we can improve in order to be better as an organization. Your feedback is being discussed in our Governing Body, Executive Staff and Administrative Staff meetings so that we can strategize on ways to better ourselves as managers. You are great employees and it is a privilege to work with you all.

- Dallas Earnshaw, Superintendent

## "What? No Emu?"

Over the centuries, our presidents have kept a wide range of pets – some by choice, others thrust upon them by well-meaning diplomats from across the world. Which of these animals never called the White House home?

Alligator  
Bald Eagle  
Elephant  
Hyena  
Lion  
Monkey  
Owl  
Pygmy Hippo  
Silkworm  
Zebra



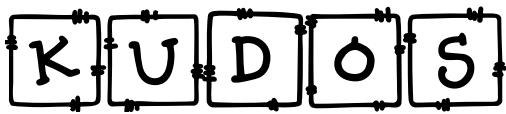
\*\*Answer on Page 4

## Did You Know . . . .

*In 1944, the Utah State Hospital began publishing an employee newsletter called "The Indicator." In each issue was a column called "Did you Know," the information listed below is a sample of some of the facts found in the 1947 "Indicators."*



- *The mountains immediately back of the Hospital tower nearly 8,000 feet above us.*
- *The kitchen uses 120 eggs to one batch of eggnog. No wonder the roosters get the hens up early in the morning!*
- *Al Kopp, the baker went to work on January 7, 1946. He has baked (get this) 220,000 loaves of bread and used 30,000 sacks of flour. This is the equivalent to four railroad carloads.*
- *The Hospital dairy last month produced 9,450 gallons of milk, 126 gallons of cream, 1,860 pounds of butter and 150 gallons of buttermilk.*
- *The total value of the dairy products produced at the Hospital last month (April) was \$5,469.76.*
- *Some of our pansies measured 3½ inches in diameter and had more than 100 flowers on a single plant. (The Hospital was renowned in the community for its flower gardens).*
- *Dr. Heninger is the seventh superintended of the institution's 62 years of service.*
- *In 1884, the legislature of Utah passed a law that "anyone selling or giving a toy pistol to any person in this Territory shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor."*
- *There was a serious move in 1893 to make Provo the capitol of Utah and build the State Capitol building where the upper campus of BYU now stands.*
- *The first decade of its early history, Utah embraced 269,170 sq. miles and was larger than Great Britain, France, and Germany combined.*
- *The average daily per capita cost of general health care in 1946 was \$7.60.*
- *The average person in the United States consumes 3300 calories a day.*
- *In 1946, for the first time, hospital births in the United States reached and exceeded two million.*



#### *Housekeeping -*

For continually working to ensure safety of patients and staff by keeping the sidewalks free and clear of snow!

#### *Maintenance -*

For plowing hospital roads and making it possible for employees and visitors to drive into work safely.

#### *Valerie King, UND LHU -*

Val has been working for the hospital for approximately eight years now and has served as a charge nurse on each shift. She is an amazingly hard worker. She is totally service-oriented and tries to not only make sure patients have their needs met, but staff as well. She serves the staff on the unit continually. She is like the energizer bunny, constantly attending to the needs of others. She is now in a nursing program that will lead to her completing her nurse practitioner degree and plans on specializing in psych nursing. Anyone who works with Val can attest to the fact that she goes above and beyond the call of duty! Val, we love you!

#### *Ben O'Brien, MD, Mountain View -*

Doctor O'Brien is a high performance type individual. He has displayed a superior knowledge and application of psychiatric care on ITC, and now the Mountain View Unit. He has been instrumental in helping the Unit acquire and maintain very low incidents of seclusions and restraints. This not only provides a safer environment for patients, but also reduces injuries to staff members. Dr. O'Brien is happy to share his vision for the Unit with the staff. He has worked tirelessly to prepare for patient's discharges from the moment the individual is admitted to the Unit. He insists on high quality treatment from all team members, keeping us all on our toes for the benefit of our clientele. Good luck to Dr. O'Brien in your new adventure - we will miss you!

#### *London Robert, Legacy Unit Clerk -*

London goes above and beyond the call in working with ADT to schedule the large amount of outside appointments that Legacy patients require. In addition to that she also helps escort patients to those appointments and has been very resourceful in making sure patients receive the care they need. An incident that she was involved in recently included representing a patient by proxy so to speak and meeting with the doctor and bringing the info back to the team when the patient themselves were to ill to get out of the car and could not participate in the appointment. The doctor appreciated the effort as well. Who would have thought of that? It worked out very well and the patient benefited from much needed specialized care. This type of dedication by London happens routinely and we can't thank her enough.

## WINTER CAMP TRIP



The Recreation Therapy Department had the annual Winter Camp trip to Timp Lodge this past December. This trip was different from past years in that BYU is not renting out Timp Lodge during the winter months beginning in 2009. This meant the hospital had to schedule the trip in December 2008.

The morning of Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> dawned cloudy and snowy. By the time the group got to the lodge, there were 24 inches of snow on the ground and more still coming down. The vans were equipped with chains and all made it to the lodge in good shape. With all the snow it was truly a "Winter Wonderland" just right for a Christmas celebration at the lodge. The patients decorated a Christmas tree with old fashioned decorations of ginger bread men, popcorn strings, paper chains, etc. After a delicious traditional turkey Christmas dinner, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made an appearance and presented each patient with a gift. It was a great night at the lodge.

The remainder of the trip included activities of: crafts, games, videos, lots of food, making a fire in the large fireplace and then just sitting around the fire talking and socializing, an outing to the crater at the Homestead in Midway for some snorkeling/swimming in the natural warm water of the springs, and snow tubing at Soldier Hollow.

One employee who had never been on a hospital camp trip commented on how impressed he was to see the patients work together, socialize and generally interact in a community setting outside of the hospital environment. "They respond differently, it gives me a new perspective on treatment and what the patients can do".

## Employee Family Tubing Night at SOLDIER HOLLOW

**When: Friday, February 27**  
**Time: 8 - 10 p.m.**

**Get your tickets today!**  
**\$5.00 per person!**





## PRESIDENTIAL POOCHES

As the saying goes, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." Many presidents have taken that advice. See if you can match the dog (name and breed) to the president:  
(Answers on page 3)

- |                 |                                  |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Liberty      | A) Beagle                        | 1. Calvin Coolidge   |
| 2. Millie       | B) Golden Retriever              | 2. Bill Clinton      |
| 3. Clipper      | C) White Collie                  | 3. George H. W. Bush |
| 4. Rob Roy      | D) Weimaraner                    | 4. Ronald Reagan     |
| 5. Heidi        | E) Springer Spaniel              | 5. Dwight Eisenhower |
| 6. King Timahoe | F) German Shepherd               | 6. Gerald Ford       |
| 7. Rex          | G) Labrador Retriever            | 7. Richard Nixon     |
| 8. Buddy        | H) Cavalier King Charles Spaniel | 8. Lyndon B. Johnson |
| 9. Fala         | I) Scottish Terrier              | 9. John F. Kennedy   |

### USH NEWSLETTER

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### OH, THE PLACES WE HAVE BEEN



*Identify the correct location of the above picture to have your name  
entered into a drawing for a prize!*

*E-mail the correct answer to [jgierisch@utah.gov](mailto:jgierisch@utah.gov) by  
February 18, 2009.*

\*\*Only the monkey has never graced the White House residence. In fact, the list of unusual pets is long and includes a wallaby, raccoon, bobcat, badger, turkey, coyote, numerous parrots, and tiger cubs.